

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action dated February 9, 2004, the Examiner has maintained the final rejection dated August 27, 2003, of pending claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24. By the present amendment, claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 are pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24.

A. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyd '211. Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 10 to specify that the "fastener hole is a non-countersunk through-hole." For the reasons that follow, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 are patentably distinguishable over Boyd '211.

As amended, independent claims 1 and 10 are directed to recessed fastener adapter device and system for recessing a fastener on a printed wire board (PWB) comprising a board interface for interfacing the adapter device with the PWB at a fastener hole, wherein the fastener hole is a non-countersunk through-hole, and wherein the board interface interfaces with the PWB at the fastener hole and includes a top surface. The device further includes a fastener head engaging surface for accepting and recessing a fastener head having a top surface, wherein the fastener head engaging surface engages a fastener head and recesses a fastener head, and wherein neither the top surface of the board interface nor the top surface of the fastener head protrudes from the PWB top surface. Independent claim 10 recites similar limitations. As explained in the present

application, this arrangement “does not cause interference on the PCB, or causes interferences, the extent of which are less than the interferences that would be caused by not using the adapter or are acceptable to obtain the benefit of eliminating counter-sink holes” (emphasis added). Page 3, lines 11-14 of the present application. The recessed fastener adapter device and system of claims 1 and 10, therefore, address a number of problems present with known PCB fasteners.

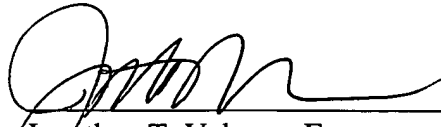
In contrast, Boyd ‘211 discloses a quick fastener unit for connecting workpieces. Specifically, Boyd ‘211 discloses a “cowl fastener” (col. 1, ln. 19) including “a grommet 46 for snugly fitting within the workpiece apertures and absorbing shear stresses applied to the fastener.” Col. 2, lines 58-60 of Boyd ‘211. Grommet 46 is illustrated in Fig. 3 of Boyd ‘211, and is described as having “a flared head portion 48 adapted to seat within a countersunk portion 50 of the workpiece aperture 38” (emphasis added). Col. 2, lines 60-62 of Boyd ‘211. Thus, the fastener of Boyd ‘211 is specifically adapted to connect workpieces which have countersunk holes, the very problem of which is addressed by the recessed fastener adapter device and system specified by claims 1 and 10. Boyd ‘211 thereby teaches away from the device of claim 1 and the system of claim 10. In sum, Boyd ‘211 fails to disclose or remotely suggest the recessed fastener adapter device and system specified by claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of independent claim 1, and its corresponding dependent claims 2-3 and 6-9, and independent claim 10, and its corresponding dependent claims 12, 13 and 17-24, has been traversed, and that, therefore, claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 should now be allowed.

B. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, allowance of claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted;

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